

Bravely and determinedly frustrate fierce attacks of Duterte's bloodthirsty regime!

Strengthen close links with the masses!

Advance the people's war in the Island through creative means!

THE DUTERTE REGIME HAS LAID OUT the basis for intensified and massive attacks against revolutionary forces and the people in the whole country and in Negros Island. Peace talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) were cancelled through Proclamation 360 last November 2017 while the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and New People's Army (NPA) were dec-

lared as terrorist organizations through Proclamation 374 on December 2017.

On November 2018, Memorandum Order 32 was imposed on Negros Island and Bicol and Samar while the implementation of Executive Order 70 establishing the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) in the national up to the barangay level followed last December 2018.

The counterrevolutionary war launched by the Duterte regime

through Joint Campaign Plan Kapanatagan mobilizing the entire force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Philippine National Police (PNP) and its paramilitary troops is overly strong and fierce. Duterte leads the NTF-ELCAC which is based on US imperialism's whole of nation approach, together with the top officials and retired generals of the AFP/PNP, to subdue and put all civilian agencies in government, private sectors in business, institutions



and organizations and personalities under his dictatorship.

Duterte aims to isolate and destroy the revolutionary forces through all-out and extensive military operations and black propaganda that will further malign the CPP, NPA and NDF. Here in Negros, more than 14 combat battalions of the Philippine Army and PNP including paramilitary forces and death squads are in place for this purpose.

Since the second half of 2018, forceful military operations of the enemy in Negros Island have been relentless. Local government units (LGU), from the provincial, municipal and barangay level; different agencies and organization in the reactionary government; private sectors in business; and other institutions and non-government organizations were pressured to declare revolutionary forces as persona non grata and to participate in the anti-insurgency campaign.

From 2019 to present, militarization in the countryside intensi-

fied as the AFP/PNP launched simultaneous focused military operations (FMO) and the Re-tooled Community Support Program (RCSP) employing at least one to two battalions at a given time. The cities were attacked as well by raiding offices of progressive organizations and arresting mass leaders, red-tagging militant organizations, personalities and its political opposition, and filing trumped-up charges and planting evidences.

The worst portrayal of attacks in Negros Island by the Duterte regime's merciless henchmen were the massacres such as Sagay 9, Oplan Sauron 1 and 2, and Oplan Branstark and the rampant extrajudicial killings (EJK) of personalities like Alexander Ceballos, Atty. Ben Ramos, Councilor Bernardino "Toto" Patigas, and Zara Alvarez and the masses who were fighting for their democratic rights and interests amid oppression and exploitation and violation of human rights.

Deceptive schemes launched by the AFP/PNP and the Provin-

cial Task Force-ELCAC were simultaneous with massive attacks in the countryside. There were the "Dagyanan ng Mamamayan," "Serbisyo Caravan," "People's Day" and other similar deceitful programs and activities held from the cities of Canlaon and Guihulngan to Zamboanguita, Dauin, Siaton and Sta. Catalina in Negros Oriental. Activities were also organized to contradict and sabotage that of progressive organizations, for instance when the AFP/PNP orchestrated a sham "Peace Summit" coinciding with the commemoration of the Escalante Massacre at the exact venue prepared by progressive organizations last September 20, 2019, wherein a "surrender" ceremony of 2,510 individuals tricked and coerced by the Philippine Army to surrender as members and supporters of the NPA became controversial.



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ANG *Paghimakas*

Nagapasalamat ang *Ang Paghimakas* sa mga kontribusyon agud mangin madinalag-on ang ini nga isyu. Sa pagpauswag sang aton *Ang Paghimakas*, ginapangabay sa tanan nga bumalasa nga padayon nga mag-amot sang mga balita, piktyur, istorya kag iban pa nga sinulat. Nagapangayo man kami sang inyo mga suhestyon kag komentaryo paano pa gid ini pauswagon.



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When Benedict Arevalo was still 303rd Brigade Commander, he actively campaigned in schools in Bacolod City red-tagging progressive organizations to alienate them from the students and academe. The Sangguniang Kabataan was assembled to recruit them to 303rd Brigade sponsored organizations and peasants and farm workers co-operatives were converted to Masaligan (79th Infantry Battalion) Farmers Cooperatives and Fisherfolks Associations.

In the final year of Duterte's ruthless regime, Maj. Gen. Arevalo, newly-installed 3rd Infantry Division (3ID) commander, declared that the AFP will end insurgency in Negros Island this year up to June 2022. The overall objective of the enemy is to isolate revolutionary forces from the people and afterward destroy it in a decisive manner.

Expect the most terrible attack of the forces of the 3ID, 303rd Brigade and 302nd Brigade of the Philippine Army, also PNP troops under Joint Task Force Negros, in the countryside and even in the cities. It is best for revolutionary forces to boost their courage, determination and militance to be able to face this type of attack comprehensively.

Fascism indicates weakness and desperation of the state in the middle of a socio-economic crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic

THE DUTERTE REGIME'S BUDGET AND expenditure in the anti-insurgency campaign including the procurement of modern firearms and other materiel, which a big chunk has already been corrupted by high-ranking officials of the AFP/PNP, is hefty and scandalous. The economy plummeted due to the socio-economic crisis of the ruling system that is worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic overwhelmed by widespread corruption in various agencies of the reactionary regime. The Duterte regime stands as defender of the rotten reactionary semicolonial and semifeudal system and the interest of the ruling big comprador bourgeoisie-land lord class to the detriment of the broad masses of people likewise the middle forces of society.

The growing rage of the people is targeted towards the regime because while the people fell victim to the COVID-19 pandemic, to lockdowns and quarantines lacking in government aid, hunger and privation, and the loss of livelihood and work, top military officials and bureaucrats in government agencies, and the family and cronies of Duterte are involved in extensive and shameless cases of corruption adding to the bankruptcy of the economy and of public coffers.

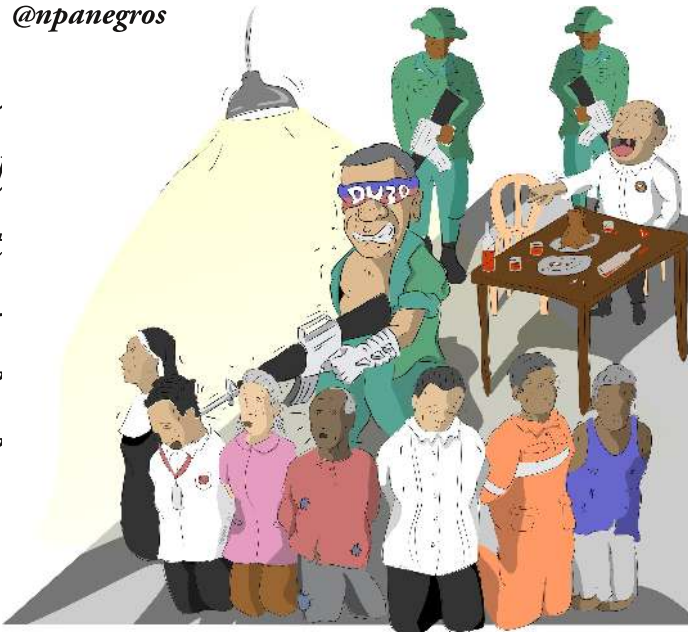
The crisis of finance and resources is serious in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Duterte regime has not provided a solution to the people's predicament of widespread poverty, starvation, absence or lack of work opportunities and the destruction of livelihood as a result of lockdowns and quarantines imposed by the militarist regime.

Budget allocated for education, health and other social services was slashed. Funds appropriated to address COVID-19 and help millions of impoverished people and those who lost their jobs due to the pandemic is extremely insufficient. Furthermore,



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there were natural disasters in 2020 and this 2021 that caused grave damage to people's daily living, lives, houses and other infrastructures that demand assistance in the midst of a gargantuan budget for the AFP/PNP and anti-insurgency. An example is the Barangay Development Program (BDP) of the NTF-ELCAC dubbed as the pork barrel of the military.

People enraged over the regime's measures to address the COVID-19 pandemic, rampant killings in the "war against drugs," killings of lawyers, teachers, peasants and middle forces critical of the anti-people policies

of the fascist regime, and arrest and red-tagging of progressive and militant organizations rapidly increased. The Duterte regime is downright fascist against the Filipino people but a lapdog to China's aggressive occupation of the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) in the West Philippine Sea.

The rift within the ruling class is slowly growing because of the ruling regime's favoritism and cronyism. There is hidden disgust among retired and active elements of the AFP and PNP in relation to the controversy in the West Philippine Sea and the

puppetry of the Duterte regime to China. The split in the ruling class is getting bigger while the 2022 presidential elections is fast approaching.

The fascist measures of Duterte's bloodthirsty regime is hated by the masses. The conditions are ripe for the intensification of the masses' resistance if their movement is correctly aroused, organized and led. The enemy is more isolated from the broad masses in the countryside as a result of its fascist crimes and brutality. They are dependent on terror and deception among others.

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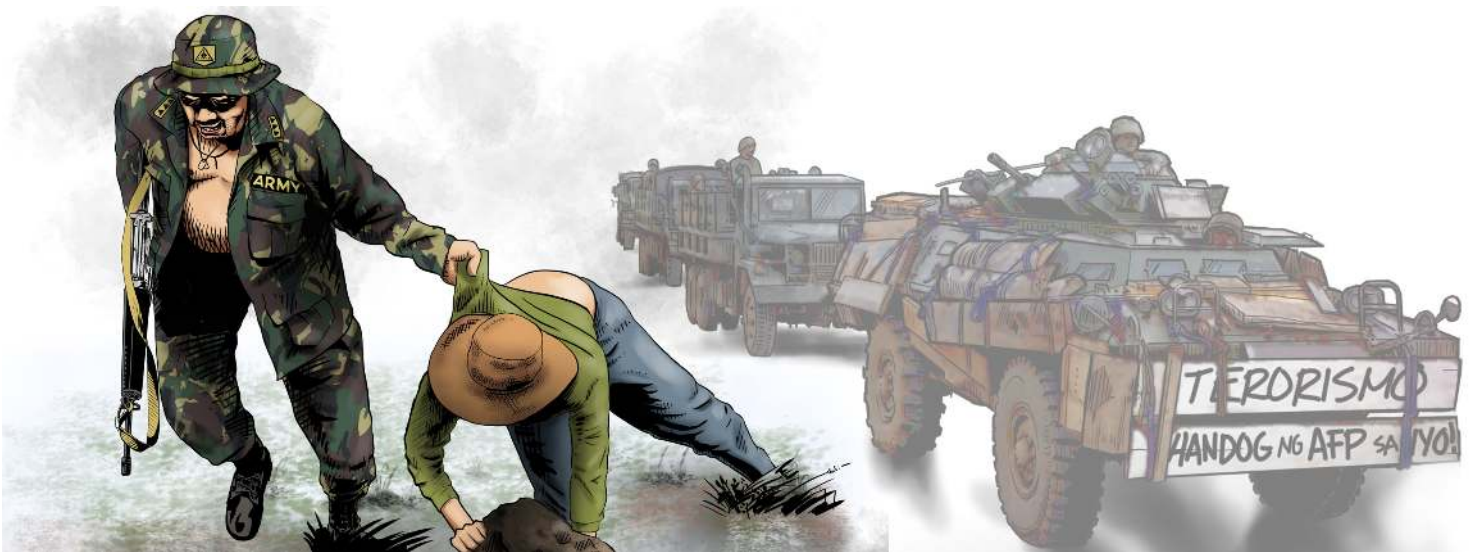
The NPA as the people's army is prepared for great difficulties and sacrifices in serving the people

IN THE CURRENT GENERAL SITUATION of the war in Negros Island, based on the balance of forces between the reactionary and revolutionary forces, the revolutionary forces are significantly inferior and faces an exceedingly superior enemy onslaught. Nevertheless, at a given moment revolutionary forces are able to gain superiority and destroy the weak and isolated section of the enemy if said superiority is discovered,

grasped and utilized.

This superiority is small-scale, limited and brief. However, if used correctly, victories though small and limited will gradually accumulate against an exceptionally immense and strong enemy with the advantage of training, numbers, firearms and logistics and other resources. The Red fighters need to actively discover and pinpoint the weaknesses of the enemy and use this to destroy it bit by bit.

The NPA continues to enjoy the intensive and extensive support of peasant masses because it helps in their fight for genuine agrarian reform and in other struggles against all forms of oppression and exploitation. Even though it has experienced serious harm due to the massive, immense and prolonged attacks of the enemy that is many times bigger and stronger, the NPA is confident that it can overcome these difficulties and sacrifices



because it wages a just war and serves the people.

Increasing the efforts to widely arouse, organize and mobilize the broad masses; resolving mistakes, weaknesses and shortcomings; and continuing to carry forward extensive and intensive guerrilla warfare in an ever widening and deepening mass base are needed. Red fighters must study the lessons from the experiences of the revolutionary movement in Negros, constantly be aware of the enemy, and sharpen their understanding of the principles of people's war and guerrilla warfare in the current stage of strategic defensive.

There is a need to delve into the rich experience accumulated in a protracted period of fighting a strong and powerful enemy. Study revolutionary theory to apply it well to concrete conditions and practice. Give high importance to the resolutions and clarifications of the Party that is released periodically. Do not be complacent but be calm in thinking; be passionate and militant but systematic in carrying out revolutionary work.

The Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) detachments and RCSP are used by the enemy as blocks to pin down the NPA units while their combat units launching FMOs will be the one to destroy it. Render the RCSP and detachments ineffective as blockhouses encircling guerrilla forces by mounting a counter-encirclement. The counter-encirclement must be mounted through the comprehensive and harmonious advance of mass movement in armed struggle, agrarian revolution and establishing the mass base under the close and effective leadership of Party committees and NPA commands.

Revolutionary forces must

contend with the enemy's plan of decimating the mass base in consolidated and relatively consolidated areas. The Red fighters can improve on contending with the enemy by sustaining its close link with the masses and invigorating the establishment of revolutionary strength and mass action in persistently advancing anti-feudal and anti-fascist struggles while improving their direct participation in armed struggle. Strengthen close links with the masses through mass line and the correct methods of arousing, organizing and mobilizing them. Devise a definite plan to recruit, expand and train the NPA in a short period of time.

In Negros Island, there are vast lands and plenty of people. Areas with no RCSP and detachments await the NPA. Seize the moment to immediately build the mass base in these areas, although areas with RCSP or detachments must not be taken for granted. Instead, contend with the enemy in organizing, arousing and mobilizing the people in these areas. Endeavor

in rebuilding political unity in areas with RCSP and detachments.

Generally, despite the size and strength of the AFP/PNP, it has many weaknesses that makes it vulnerable to attritive and annihilative military actions of the NPA. The RCSP units and detachments are vulnerable to NPA attacks if its is isolated from other forces. It can be overrun if there is good intelligence and preparation of the battlefield, a superior force is ready, surprise and quick attack is employed, and there is mass support.

Big columns of the enemy dispersing into platoons or section-sized units upon reaching interior areas are vulnerable to annihilative military actions of concentrated NPA forces. Many enemy vulnerabilities can still be discovered if there is good intelligence work.

The NPA must be determined and raise its daringness to fight and defend the interest of the people and the victories gained by the revolution.



Revolutionary forces are ready to confront strong and large enemy attacks

REVOLUTIONARY FORCES IN NEGROS ISLAND are prepared for more difficulties and sacrifices. Further raise the determination and courage to frustrate once more in full-strength the plan of the ruthless Duterte regime using the 3ID, 303rd Brigade, 302nd Brigade, Scout Ranger Company, Civil Military Operations Battalion of the Philippine Army and Special Action Force Battalion and Regional Mobile Force Battalion of the PNP to destroy the revolutionary movement in the Island before the end of his term. Launch a counter-campaign against the bigger and stronger attacks of the blood-thirsty enemy.

There must be full mobilization of all NPA units in the guerrilla fronts; and the militia units, barrio defence units and organized masses in consolidated and relatively consolidated areas. The mass base in guerrilla zones, including the friends and allies of the revolution, have a role in broadly resisting fascist attacks of the fierce enemy.

Give consideration to the

major importance of winning tactical offensives; choose blows that will highlight the political basis of armed struggle.

Red fighters must have utmost flexibility. It can be flexible in employing its formations for military actions. Organize small detached units that can swiftly maneuver and pass through enemy positions for harassment operations and other attritive actions to give the main unit an opportunity to implement effective and solid basic tactical offensives against the enemy. There must be a high degree of mobility in any encampment. Everything must always be packed, and heavy materiel lessened in the camp. There must be an adequate and clear system of maneuver of individuals and units during sudden enemy attacks.

NPA units are capable of defeating the AFP's FMO and RCSP. The NPA's campaign for basic tactical offensives that can destroy the enemy is the most effective way of confronting FMOs. With the help of the

masses in monitoring enemy movement, choosing favorable terrain, familiarizing the routes and patterns of the enemy entry and exit, good use of command-detonated explosives and the opportuned moment when enemy troops are exhausted from several days of operation, the NPA can deliver a heavy blow. Combine this with series of harassment operations against mobile large troops of the enemy and attacking its weak parts.

Regular assessments of enemy conditions and the study of their designs and plans in each period, as well as the condition of its own force—the NPA, militia, organized masses and mass base—are important. This is essential to immediately pointout and timely solve problems and weaknesses.

Give Red fighters the necessary education on the rules and discipline of the NPA, the process of revolutionary justice, regarding the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL)

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and others related to these.

Raise the discipline of implementing military regulations and organized actions at all times based on the structural formation and command of the NPA units. Develop a wide and favourable space for maneuver of the units of Red fighters. Establish secret and safe routes. Ensure the security of NPA units by coming up with explicit rules on how to avoid defensive actions. Develop a system of basing highly considering the evasion of monitoring of smoke, lights at night, and signal tracking of the enemy and with ample cover or defense against drones, helicopters and bombs.

Make the enemy blind and deaf through raising the level of clandestine movement in order to conceal the moves and plans of the NPA from the enemy. This is a matter of great import so as not to give the enemy any idea where they can precisely use their drones and launch attacks.

Firmly grasp the secrecy of compartmentalized and tactical information. Every so often

asses the presence of enemy assets, Barangay Intelligence Network and other similar intelligence networks of the enemy in the area. Put undesirable and unreliable elements under control that they may not be easily mobilized by the enemy. Be wary of unreliable elements appearing during intense military operations. Make decisive steps to get rid of these elements.

Prepare the mass base for defending and resisting widespread militarization in the countryside. How the organized masses and mass base were prepared and mobilized to defend and resist is a crucial matter in the people's war. Unite revolutionary forces in localities regarding the Party's assessment of the political situation and plan of the enemy and of the tasks they must prioritize based on the present military situation.

Draft a clear plan and particular tasks for the mass base. Build the defense corps within the mass organizations. Make the Party branches and militia

units the command center. Set up their formations congruent to the conditions (squads or teams) and tasks. All identified and marked elements in the ranks of the masses that are possible targets of the enemy must be secured from attacks during enemy military operations by accommodating them in the NPA or temporarily transferring them to other areas.

Put in place a defense plan including anti-militarization struggles, organized evacuation among others. Make sure the masses are educated about the CAR-HRIHL and human rights in general and regarding the special mass course on people's war.

Execute a plan to expand and recover the mass base in the context of massive enemy operations. The key to this is launching successful anti-feudal struggles. Intensify, broaden and revitalize propaganda work. Continue uniting the masses and raising their determination to take part in revolution and their political consciousness against the enemy. **AP**

